

In the Claims:

1. A method for valuing a large publicly owned patent portfolio comprising the steps of measuring the diversity and depth thereof wherein diversity is the ratio of the number of patents to the number of technological classes to which the patents have been assigned by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and depth is the ratio of the number of successive patents referencing an original patent through two generations of referencing patents.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the portfolio consists of at least about one thousand United States patents.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said valuation is calculated with reference to a base line consisting of all U.S. patents issued from 1976-2000.